

Appln No. 10/785,416
Amendment/Response to OA, filed April 17, 2006
replying to the Office Action of November 16, 2005

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 2418.0875-00

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]] The ball game racket of claim 4, wherein the comprising a frame, which forms a head region for receiving a stringing and a handle portion (1) for holding the ball game racket, and a dampening means provided in the handle portion, wherein in the handle portion the frame has a multi-layer structure and the dampening means comprises a rear dampening element is (15) configured as a sheet material and forming at least one layer of the multi-layer structure.~~
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]] The ball game racket of claim 4, wherein the comprising a dampening means having a has one front dampening element (8) and a one rear dampening element (15) according to claim 1.~~
4. (Currently Amended) A ball game racket comprising a frame having a head region for receiving a stringing, a heart region (2) and a handle portion (4) including a handle shell (9) for holding the ball game racket, and a dampening means provided in the handle portion (4) and having at least one front dampening element (8) and at least one rear dampening element (15), wherein in the handle portion (4) the frame consists of a multi-layer structure and the rear dampening element (15) forms at least one layer of the multi-layer structure, and wherein the at least one front dampening element (8) is formed at the end of the handle portion (4) facing the head region of the ball game racket so that in the area of the transition between the heart region (2) and the handle portion (4) it contacts the outer contour of the frame and ends at the end of the handle shell (9) facing the head region of the racket.

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5. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the frame is formed of plurality of layers of a carbon fiber composite material and the sheet material of the rear dampening means (15) is placed between two or more layers of the carbon fiber composite material.
6. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the sheet material comprises a foamed material.
7. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the sheet material comprises nitrile foam, polyacrylnitrile foam, polyurethane (PUR) foam, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) foam, styrene butadiene rubber (SBR) and/or nitrile rubber or acrylnitrile butadiene rubber (NBR).
8. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the sheet material is in the form of a strip of at least 10 mm x at least 140 mm.
9. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the at least one front dampening element (8) comprises a foamed material.
10. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the at least one front dampening element (8) comprises a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE), thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) and/or ethylene/vinylacetate (EVA).
11. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the at least one front dampening element (8) has dimensions of 2-6 mm x 4-10 mm, preferably about 4 x 6 mm.
12. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the rear dampening element (15) has at least partially a density of about 0.16 g/cm³.

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13. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the front dampening element-(8) has at least partially a hardness of about 60 to 100 Shore A and the rear dampening element-(15) of about 9 to 30 Shore A.
14. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein a handle shell-(9) is arranged in the handle portion-(4).
15. (Currently Amended) The ball racket according to claim 14, wherein the handle shell-(9) is made of polyurethane.
16. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ ball game racket comprising a frame, which forms a head region for receiving a stringing and a handle portion for holding the ball game racket, and a dampening means provided in the handle portion, wherein in the handle portion the frame has a multi-layer structure and the dampening means comprises a rear dampening element configured as a sheet material and forming at least one layer of the multi-layer structure, wherein a handle shell is arranged in the handle portion and according to claim 14, wherein the sheet material is arranged below the handle shell-(9).
17. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the sheet material and/or the at least one front dampening element (8) is/are arranged on the handle surface(s) extending parallel to the stringing.
18. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the sheet material and/or the at least one front dampening element-(8) surround(s) the handle.
19. - 25. (Canceled)

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26. (New) The ball game racket according to claim 4, wherein the at least one front dampening element has dimensions of about 4 x 6 mm.